

Message Text

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46

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 MC-02 L-03 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01

PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15 RSR-01 /108 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2507

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TSPA, NL

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SPACE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 159479

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF LETTER FROM A. VAN DER WILLIGEN, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, NETHERLANDS EMBASSY, DATED 10 AUGUST, 1973, WHICH RECEIVED MORNING 13 AUGUST.

QUOTE. DEAR MR. STONE,

WHEN SIGNING THE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN CERTAIN MEMBER STATES OF E.S.R.O AND E.S.R.O. CONCERNING THE EXECUTION OF THE SPACELAB PROGRAM THIS AFTER-NOON AT E.S.R.O.-HEADQUARTERS, I LEARNED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO ACQUIRING MAXIMUM CERTAINTY AS TO THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES TO BE ATTACHED TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.A. AND CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS, MEMBERS OF THE E.S.R.O., FOR A CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT, PROCUREMENT AND USE OF A SPACE LABORATORY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPACE SHUTTLE SYSTEM, WHEN THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AT E.S.R.O.-HEADQUARTERS ON 14 AUGUST 1973.

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AS THE NETHERLANDS SIGNATURE TO THE AGREEMENT

CAN ONLY BE AFFIXED ON 16 AUGUST 1973 FOR PURELY PRACTICAL REASONS, I THOUGHT I SHOULD WRITE TO YOU IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO INFORM YOU OF THE FACTS. THE FULL POWERS FOR SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT IN THE NAME OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAVE ALREADY BEEN

COUNTERSIGNED EARLIER THIS WEEK BY HER MAJESTY QUEEN JULIANA, WHO IS IN ITALY AT THE MOMENT. THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT AMBASSADOR DE RANITZ, OWING (SIC) TO EARLIER ENGAGEMENTS AT THE HAGUE FOR THAT DAY, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE SIGNING CEREMONY WHICH HAS NOW BEEN ADVANCED TO 14 AUGUST 1973. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR HIM TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON 16 AUGUST 1973, WHICH NOW SEEMS THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

TRUSTING THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THIS LETTER AS PROOF OF MY GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, I AM, YOURS TRUTHFULLY, /S/A. VAN DER WILLIGEN, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY. END QUOTE.

2. IN LIGHT REFTTEL, I CALLED CONSELOR VAN STRATEN IN ABSENCE VAN DER WILLIGEN, WHO DEPARTED PARIS AUGUST 12 FOR THREE-WEEK VACATION.

3. AS COURTESY, I INFORMED VAN STRATEN THAT EMBASSY THE HAGUE MIGHT BE RAISING WITH FONOFF POSSIBILITY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT ADHERE TO AGREEMENT AUGUST 14.

4. VAN STRATEN EXPLAINED THAT AS HEAD OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, QUEEN JULIANA MUST PERSONALLY EMPOWER REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN FOR GOVERNMENT. AUTHORIZATION APPROVED AT PORTO ERCOLE, ITALY, WHERE QUEEN PRESENTLY RESIDING, SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED EITHER AMB DE RANITZ OR MINISTER VAN DER WILLIGEN TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF DUTCH GOVERNMENT. THERE IS APPARENT RELUCTANCE TROUBLE QUEEN TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR THIRD PERSON TO SIGN.

5. VAN STRATEN ASSURED ME DUTCH ADHERENCE IS NOT IN QUESTION. IT IS SOLELY MATTER OF PRACTICALITY IN OBTAINING DUTCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNATURE AND ASSURED ME AMB DE RANITZ WOULD BE RETURNING TO PARIS AUGUST 15 AND WOULD SIGN AUGUST 16.
STONE

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